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Allotment of houses to Government servants.

* 97 *Q.*—Sri K. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Accommodation Control be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a typist working in the Chief Secretariat was allotted a house of a monthly rental of Rs. 118 while his basic salary was Rs. 63 per mensem;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the rent paid by the Government to the landlord at Rs. 118 being higher than the basic salary of the employee for whom the house was allotted, the Government advanced money to the employee concerned to make up the deficit; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the amount advanced as in clause (*b*) has yet to be recovered from the pay of the employee for eight more years to come?

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI:—" (*a*) In 1948, building No. 10 (portion) Kasi Chetti Lane, Georgetown, Madras, was taken over under the provisions of the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, and offered to Government servants on rent at Rs. 200 per mensem subject to fixation of fair rent by the Collector of Madras, who was then the Accommodation Control Officer. Sri D. V. Krishniah, typist, Chief Secretariat, whose salary was Rs. 64 per mensem plus Rs. 29 allowances, gave his consent to take it on the above condition and it was allotted to him. The Rent Controller who was moved in the matter fixed the fair rent at Rs. 72 per mensem and when the matter was taken on appeal by the landlord, the Court of Small Causes fixed it at Rs. 118 per mensem later.

" (*b*) No amount was advanced to the employee to pay his rent. The allottee defaulted in payment and fell in arrears of rent. The landlord filed a suit against the Government, who were the statutory tenants of the building under the Act, for payment of the amount. The amount due to him by the allottee had to be paid from the State Revenues.

" (*c*) The entire amount paid from the State Revenues had to be recovered from the allottee. The amount outstanding on 1st April last is Rs. 1,316–11–0. On a representation made by Sri Krishniah expressing his inability to pay the entire amount, Government propose to waive half the amount, i.e., Rs. 658–5–6. It will take about four years and seven months to realize the balance from him at the rate of Rs. 12 per mensem."

11 a.m. Sri T. NAGI REDDI:—" Sir, the Government having forced the person into a house whose rent it was not possible for him to pay, it will be really still more difficult for him to pay the balance of rent from his pay every month because he is very poor. So, may I know whether the Government will be willing to write off the whole amount due from him?"

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THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"Sir, nobody forced him into that place. We shall do everything possible in the matter. If I may be permitted to say so, it was perhaps a gamble on the rent being fixed at a reasonable level, and after due consideration, the Government waived half the amount now outstanding."

DR. K. B. MENON :—"Were not the Government just as guilty as the person concerned when they allotted the house to him?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"I do not think the Government can be held to be guilty, because the tenant knew the implications of his commitment. It was very unfortunate that he should have stayed there so long without vacating it and going in for a building carrying a rental which will be within his means."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—"Is it a fact that the Accommodation Controller is suffering from an overdose of linguistic love?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"I cannot understand on what basis he made the allotment."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—"May I know if it is not a fact that this gentleman was forced to live in such a costly house because he was not allotted any other house, and as such, the responsibility lies on the head of the Government?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"He was not forced to live there. He might not have been given another accommodation. But he had a certain accommodation previously and he could have reverted back to that accommodation. But waiting for a fresh allotment, he continued to stay here."

SRI M. BAPAIAH CHOWDARY :—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether it is a duty cast on the Government to allot a house to a public servant who is having his own house within the limits of the Madras Corporation?"

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—"This supplementary question does not arise out of the main question. Therefore, a separate question may be put."

SRI C. RAJAM RAMASAMI :—"Are the Government aware that the present system of house rent and accommodation control makes an invidious distinction between Government servants and the public, and may I know whether such a distinction will not amount to undue preference?"

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THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The Act is there. It gives priority to Government servants. But wherever there is a possibility of accommodating the public we are certainly doing it."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Was the person concerned particular about a house? "

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It is obvious."

Supply of water to the lands in Kadamba basin of Tiruchendur taluk.

* 98 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that matured crops on 20,000 acres of paddy lands in Kadamba basin of Tiruchendur taluk, Tirunelveli district, are perishing for want of water;

(b) whether during a similar situation in the past, water was supplied to Kadamba basin from the Papanasam reservoir; and

(c) if so, whether the Government will take immediate steps to supply water to Kadamba basin to save the paddy crops?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (a) Representations were received in the matter.

" (b) Yes. In 1950.

" (c) The Chief Engineer (Electricity) at the request of the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) has released 2,000 cusecs of water from the Papanasam Hydro-Electric Reservoir for a period of three days from Monday, the 7th, as a special case."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM :—" Sir, just now I have received a wire from the Srivaikuntam ryots that they want an additional supply of water. May I know whether the Government will take steps to supply water for two days more, as the supply already given is insufficient? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I may tell the hon. Member that this is a power project and not an irrigation project. As a special case, some water has been allowed. But if the hon. Member thinks that some more water is necessary, he can make a request to the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) and it will be considered."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Is there any special reason for the Government to allow water to this area? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" It is a power project. There was some water available, and to save the crops from dying, water has been allowed to be supplied. There are no other special considerations."

SRI V. V. RAMASAMI :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister said that the person concerned might approach the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) and get things done. May I know whether he should approach